

Mr. TURBANSKI (Poland): As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons I deem it necessary to inform the Conference on the current state of advancement of preparations for the commencement of the Committee's work.

It has been my firm intention to start the Committee's work on matters of substance at the earliest possible date, preferably this week.

The two-week consultation period, abundant also in informal meetings and consultations on other organizational matters, have turned out not to be sufficient for reaching common understanding on issues pertinent to the successful start of the Committee's work.

I fully appreciate the willingness demonstrated by delegations to reach the necessary understanding on issues often sensitive and of particular concern to delegations, as well as certain practical difficulties which they face.

At the same time I feel, however, that discussions on the general outlines of matters to be considered by the Working Groups, as well as on other organizational issues should not prevent us for too long from commencing the substantial work by the Committee.

On this assumption I felt it proper to ask the President and the secretariat that the first meeting of the Committee be arranged for Wednesday, 27 February 1985.

I want to assure you, Mr. President, of my continuous desire to carry out consultations with a view to overcoming the existing difficulties. In doing so I hope that all the delegations will display as co-operative and flexible an attitude as possible, so that the remaining issues will be settled before we meet on Wednesday, thus enabling the Committee and its Working Groups to carry out the mandate entrusted to them by the Conference.

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(Mr. de Souza e Silva, Brazil)

Let me revert to the argument on invention and disinvention and take the example of chemical weapons. They were invented, utilized in World War I and subsequently in other circumstances. Their use was outlawed 60 years ago, and we are now all engaged, together with the few owners of those weapons, in what we consider a good faith exercise to eliminate them, or in other words to disinvent them for warlike purposes. In the case of the most dreadful weapon ever invented, the nuclear weapon, what is required is a clearcut political and juridical commitment to prohibit and abolish it, followed by a steady and continuous operational process of negotiations.